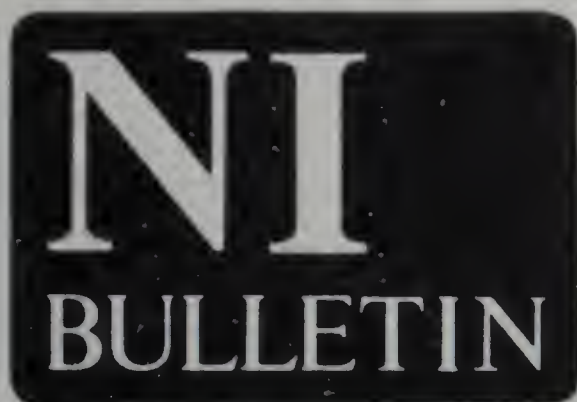


25 years of service to numismatics



JULY 1989

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INSIDE N.I.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

July, 1989 Applications for Membership: The following persons have applied for membership. If no written objections are received by September 1, 1989, their membership will become effective on that date.

- 2302 William Curd, PhD, Syneses Capital Invest., Box 12160,
Scottsdale, Arizona 85267
(Ancients, Shipwreck Coins & Artifacts)
- 2303-MT Jorgen Somod, Chr. Richardts Vej 4, 1951 Fredericksberg C,
Denmark -- (World Tokens)
- 2304-MT Andrew Duiguide, 1441 Kirkley Road, Columbus, Ohio 43221
(Chinese, East Asian, Russian)
- 2305 Richard Stockley, Box 64, Pierrefonds, Quebec, Canada H9H 4K8
(Numismatic Books, Canadian Tokens)

Reinstatement: The following member has complied with the By-Laws and is hereby reinstated to full membership:

- 1144-MT Howard A. Daniel III, P. O. Box 626, Dunnloring, Va. 22027-0626
(S.E. Asia Coins, Tokens & Medals, Native, Colonial,
Military)

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Life Memberships are available to members of three years' standing upon application to the Board of Governors and the payment of the \$200.00 fee. Conditional Life Membership is available upon payment of \$60.00 down and four quarterly payments of \$35.00.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

I. Our thanks to David Kwapisz for his donation of the following book to the NI Library:

KA90.RoyP:1980:CNI
ROY, PRAFULLA C.
The Coinage of Northern India
Pub. 1980, 182pp, illus.

II. We would also like to extend our thanks to Dr. Norman Nicol and Thomas Schillinger for their gifts of numismatic material.

Granvyl G. Hulse, Jr., Book Librarian
Jim Haley, Periodical Librarian

ANSWERS TO HISTORICAL QUIZ FOR COLLECTORS OF MODERN EUROPEAN COINS

On page 127 of the June issue of the *NI BULLETIN* we published a historical quiz for collectors of modern European coins. Following are the correct answers:

1. Rainier III of Monaco and Franz Josef II of Liechtenstein.
2. Daughters cannot inherit land. The War of the Austrian Succession. Silesia.
3. Friedrich August I, Duke of Saxony, as also Augustus II, King of Poland.
4. Five: Dutch rijkdaalders, lion daalders, silver ducats, ducatons, 3 guilders.
5. Edward VI, James I, Charles I, Elizabeth II.
6. John II of Liechtenstein 1858-1929 (71 years).
7. Pius IX 1846-1878. Royalist forces seized Rome in 1870.
8. Navarre on the Spanish border.
9. Peter the Great.
10. Marshal Jean Bernadotte of France in Sweden.
Prince Charles of Denmark as Haakon VII in Norway.

The first five persons answering all questions correctly will receive a copy of *Talers & Ecus of Alsace-Lorraine* by John S. Davenport. The answers had to be postmarked before July 1, 1989 to be eligible for a free book. Names of winning entries will be announced next month.

A PATTERN 20 REAL



Isabella II of Spain is illustrated on a pattern 20 Real coin of 1848. The obverse shows Isabella's portrait with an elaborate hairdo, while the reverse has the Arms of Spain.

(Submitted by R. R. Kutcher)

AN INTRODUCTION TO BYZANTINE COINAGE

R. R. Kutcher, Lincoln, Nebraska, NI #1289

No. 49 - CONSTANTINE X DUCAS (1059-1067)

The accession of Constantine Ducas as emperor was another triumph for the civil aristocracy of Constantinople. But, it was the misfortune of Byzantium that just when they needed a strong military leader they received a weak-willed civilian, who was quite unfit for the task of running the government at that time. Constantine was supposed to possess great administrative ability, but his reign of seven years failed to confirm this reputation. His military and economic reforms were ill timed and largely responsible for serious reverses during his own reign and a major disaster under his successors.

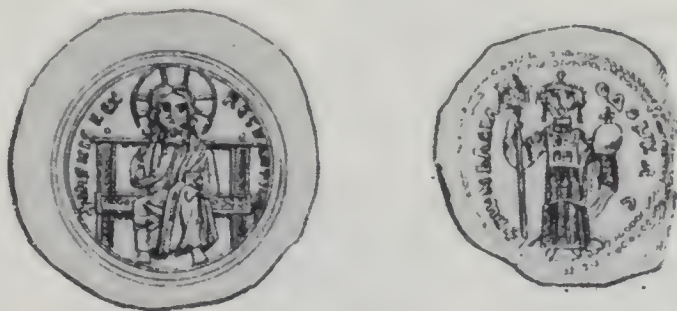
Eudocia Macrembolitissa, the niece of the Patriarch Michael Cerularius and wife of Constantine Ducas, was raised to the rank of Augusta soon after Constantine's accession. While Constantine associated his sons Constantius and Michael VII with him as Augusti, he left out his second son Andronicus, for some unexplained reason. The sons do not appear on his coins, however, his wife is shown with him on some of his silver and copper coins. Even though his wife and sons were named as associated rulers with him, he relied greatly for help and support on his brother John, whom he created Caesar. John Ducas was to play a prominent role in public affairs until his death in the late 1080's.

Just prior to his death on May 23, 1067, Constantine summoned to his bedside the Patriarch Xiphilin and some of the principal nobles of the court and made them all swear to support the throne of Eudocia and their sons. He also insisted on an oath in writing signed by Eudocia that she would not remarry. The patriarch was to keep the signed oath for safe keeping and thus began one of Byzantine's finest melodramas.

The Coinage

The gold coins of this emperor are fairly common, but his silver coins are rare, with the larger pieces extremely so. The bronze issues are common and the anonymous bronzes comes to an end with Constantine X.

Gold: There are two types of the histamenon.



Class I. Obverse, $\text{+H\text{S}XISRCX RCSN ANTIHM}$. A bearded Christ is seated on a square backed throne facing, with a cross nimbus, he is wearing a tunic and himation. His right hand is raised in blessing, his left holds

a book by its upper edge on his knee. It has a double border of dots.

Reverse, +KWNRAKA OΔOU KAC. The emperor is standing on a cushion. He is bearded and facing, wearing modified loros and a crown with a cross and pendilia. In his right hand is a labarum and in his left is the globus crucigen. It has a double border of dots. The type (a) coins have no pellets on the shaft of the labarum, while the type (b) coins do have a pellet on the shaft of the labarum.



Class II. Obverse, same as Class I, but Christ is seated on a lyre-backed throne.

Reverse, +KWNRAKA OΔOUK AC. The emperor is standing on the left facing, he is bearded and wears a modified loros and his crown has a cross and pendilia. His right hand is to his breast and in his left, he holds the globus crucigen. To the right is the standing Virgin, nimbate wearing a tunic and maphorion and she is holding her left hand before her and is crowning the emperor with her right. Between their heads is $\overline{M}$ to the right of the Virgin is Θ . There is a double row of dots for the border.

Tetarteron.



Obverse, no inscription. The bust of the Virgin is facing, nimbate, orans, wearing a tunic and maphorion. To the left is $\overline{MP}$ and to the right is ΘV , with a single border of dots.

Reverse, KWN RACIOΔYK. A facing bust of the bearded emperor, who is wearing a modified loros and his crown has a cross and pendilia. In his right hand is the globus crucigen and in his left the akakia. There is a single border of dots.

There is a type (a) with no symbol in the obverse field and a type (b) with a pellet in the right and left obverse field.

Silver: Miliaresion.



Obverse, a seven line inscription.

— — —
 +KΩN
 ΣΕΝΔΟΚΙΑ
 ΠΙΣΤΟΙΡΑ
 ΣΙΛΕΙΣΩ
 ΜΑΙΩΝ
 — — —

There is a triple linear border.

Reverse, ΕΝΤΟΥΤΗΝΙΚΑΤΕ ΚΩΝΚΑΙΕΝΔΚΙΑΝ . A crosslet on a base and three steps, with X at the intersection. It has ω on the shaft and a pellet at the end of each arm. On either side is the facing bust of the emperor and empress. There is a triple linear border.

2/3 Miliaresion.

Class I: Obverse, +ΘΕΟΤΟΚΙ ΡΗΘΕΙ . The Virgin standing facing on souppendion, nimbate, orans, wearing tunic and maphorion. To left, ΜΡ to the right ΘΥ. A single border of dots.

Reverse, a seven line inscription.

— — —
 +ΘΚΕΡΟ
 ΗΘΕΙΚΩΝ
 ΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΩΙ
 ΔΕΣΠΟΤΗ
 ΤΩΔΥΚΑ
 — — —

A single border of dots.

Class II:



Obverse, +ΘΚΕ ΡΗΘΕ . Same as class I, but with various ornaments besides the head.

Reverse, same but without the abbreviation marks in the legend.

1/3 Miliaresion.



Obverse, no inscription. A half bust of the Virgin as on the 2/3 miliaresion, and with a border of large pellets.

Reverse, four line inscription.

ΘΚΕΡ,Θ,
ΚΩΝΔΕC
ΠΟΤΗΤΩ
ΔΟΥΚΑ .

A border of large pellets.

Bronze: Follis.

Class I:



Obverse, +ΕΜΜΑ ΝΟΥΗΛ. Christ standing, facing on a square souppedion. He is bearded, with a cross nimbus having a pellet in each arm. He is wearing a tunic and himation, with his right hand raised in blessing and his left holds a book by its lower edge. In the field is IC and XC.

Reverse, +ΚΩΝΤΑΚ on the right, and ΕΥΔΚΑΥΓΟ on the left. To the left is Eudocia standing, facing. She is wearing modified loros with kite-shaped lower panel and a crown with a cross and pendilia. To the right is Constantine standing, facing, wearing modified loros and a crown with a cross and pendillia. They hold between them a labarum with a cross-piece on its shaft. Each places one hand on their heart.

Class II: Obverse, +ΕΜΜΑ ΝΟΥΗΛ. A bust of Christ facing and holding a book.

Reverse, +ΚΩΝΡΑCΙ ΛΕΥCΟ ΔΟΥΚ. A bust of the emperor facing, bearded and wearing modified loros and a crown with a cross and pendillia. In his right hand is a cross held vertically and in his



left hand is the akakia.

The bronze folles are frequently overstruck on earlier folles.

THE PRETORIA MINT NOW PUBLICLY OWNED

The Pretoria, South African Mint (SAM) was transferred from the direct control of the government during 1988 to private ownership within the South African Reserve Bank, the issuer of government paper money. The S. A. Reserve Bank is listed on the S. A. Stock Exchange and is wholly owned by stock owners.

(Submitted by Fred Drost, NLG)

HEAVY ROUBLE



The heaviest copper Russian rouble is a thick necessity piece of 1771. The coin is three inches in diameter (73mm) and is quite thick. The obverse has "MONETA RUBEL", a crown and a wreath in the center of a very broad rim. The reverse has the Russian arms and the date.

(Submitted by R. R. Kutcher)

THE ICELAND INDEPENDENCE MEDAL

Peter S. Horvitz, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, NI #2215

On June 17, 1944, Iceland declared its complete independence from Denmark after 564 years of Danish rule and declared the foundation of the Republic of Iceland. In honor of this event, Iceland issued a commemorative medal of striking design. This medal is not as well known as Iceland's 1930 Althing commemoratives, but it shares with that famous series both a high degree of artistry and a common theme for one of its designs.

Iceland was first settled in 874 A.D. by Norwegian noblemen fleeing the tyranny of King Harald the Fair-haired. By 927, dissatisfaction with the lack of central government was general and a man named Ulfljot was called upon to draw up a code of law. Ulfljot's code called for the central government to be vested in the Althing, a national assembly to be held for a few weeks each summer at Thingvellir, a site some thirty miles from Reykjavik. This form of government continued from the first meeting of the Althing in 930 until 1262, when Iceland surrendered its sovereignty to the Norwegian throne. Despite its acceptance of Norwegian sovereignty, the Althing continued to function, particularly in regard to local matters. In 1380, Norway ceded Iceland to Denmark. In 1809, the Althing was suspended by the Danish throne. Local dissatisfaction, however, forced it to be reinstated, in 1843, but now in the capital of Reykjavik, where it remains till this day. The major influence in Iceland at this time was the scholar Jon Sigurdsson, who is considered the father of his country. Through the movement for Home Rule, which Jon Sigurdsson established, great pressure was brought to bear on Denmark. On December 1, 1918, Iceland was declared an independent country, united with Denmark under a common sovereign. This state of affairs was to continue, under the Union Agreement of 1918, for twenty-five years, after which either country could, by a two-thirds vote of its legislature and three-fourths majority in a referendum, declare its complete independence from the other. In 1944 despite Denmark's occupation by Germany, Iceland voted overwhelmingly to declare its independence.



The Iceland Independence medal is bronze and measures 69 millimeters.

The obverse depicts a woman dressed in a traditional Icelandic costume, seated among the mountains on a throne formed from a natural basalt formation. She is holding a book on her lap with her left hand, her right hand holds a torch above her head. Behind her head, above a mountain, appears the rays of a rising sun. This figure represents Iceland personified as the "fjallkona" or mountain woman. The book she holds is the law and her torch represents liberty. A similar figure of Iceland as mountain woman appears on the obverse of Iceland's 1930 2 kronur Althing commemorative coin. At the base of the hillock on which Iceland sits are two sets of incused initials, A.H. to the left and S.J. to the right. The S.J. stands for Stefán Jonsson, the Icelandic artist who designed the medal. The A.H. stands for Áke Hammarberg, who cut the dies. The medal was struck by A. B. Sporrang of Sweden. On the edge SPORRONG & CO. appears in incused letters. The reverse shows the Icelandic shield beneath a sunburst. On the face of the sun is written, 17. JÚNI 1944, the date of Iceland's independence. Above this is the inscription STOFNUN LÝÐVELDIS Á ÍSLANDI or "Establishment of the Republic in Iceland."

This medal was issued in an edition of 2000 examples. The medals were originally sold in 1944 for 15 kronur. A 1970 catalog issued in Iceland lists this medal for 4500 kronur. The same catalog lists the 1930 10 kronur Althing commemorative coin at only 3500 kronur.

AUSTRALIAN "HOLEY DOLLARS" DISAPPEAR QUICKLY

The early Australian colonists were so isolated and so starved for almost all consumer goods, they would buy just about everything aboard when merchant ships put into Australian ports.

This just added to the shortage of specie and when the "holey dollars" were issued they quickly sailed away. Most of them probably ended up with New England whalers or Bombay merchants.

Submitted by Joseph H. Zaffern

WHO WAS THE "SHAH OF LONDON"?

Queen Victoria was called that on coins of several Indian Princely States, q.v. Jaisalmer (Y8), Partabgarh (Y3).

(Submitted by Fred Drost, NLG)

CHINESE COINAGE BEFORE 1914

Liang	(tael = 37.301 g Ag
Chien	= 1/10 liang
Fen	= 1/10 chien
Li	= 1/10 fen

(Submitted by Ron Herneshen)

SAN SERRIFFE AND ITS MONIES

Frere Nitouche

If you are one of those individuals who collects one coin from each coin-issuing authority, you might wish to consider adding a coin from the Republic of San Serriffe.

The Republic of San Serriffe (1) has had an interesting history. According to a Guardian (Friday, April 1, 1977) special report, San Serriffe was discovered in 1421 by adventurers recruited by John Street, an English admirer of Henry the Navigator. The crew made their historic landfall in the Shoals of Adze. The period 1432-1439 was one of Portuguese and Spanish colonization. In 1659 the islands were annexed by Britain, and in 1815 ceded to Portugal. A condominium occurred from 1824 to 1836. On April 1, 1967, independence was declared under a Social Democratic Government. In June 1967, power was seized by Colonel Hispalis, and in August 1969 by Genral Minion. Since May 11, 1971, General M. J. Pica has assumed responsibility for the government.

A 25 page book giving the history of the country (a hand-sewn booklet in stiff wrappers, 6" x 9") can be obtained from Bird & Bull Press, 2 Jericho Mountain Road, Newtown, Pa. 18940, USA, Telephone (215) 598-3066. Only ninety copies are available for sale at \$100.00 each (\$10.00 additional for foreign airmail) postpaid in the U.S. Included with the booklet is a one-ounce silver San Serriffan coin, and two additional coins - one antique bronze and the other proof aluminum, both struck from the same dies as the silver piece. Also included are a map of the Republic and 25-Corona notes.

For those of you who do not remember the location of San Serriffe, the two islands, Caissa Superiore (Upper Caisse) and Caissa Inferiore (Lower Caisse), are north-east of the Seychelle islands (Colombo 1,550 miles), and have an area of 9,724 miles.

The population according to the 1973 census was 1,782,724 consisting of (approximately) Europeans and mixed race 640,000; Flongs 574,000; Creoles 271,000; Malaysians 117,000; Arabs 92,000; others 88,000.

The capital is oceanic equatorial with rains mainly in May-October and early January.

The currency is the San Serriffe Corona (100 ems) which has become one of the hardest currencies, standing at C1 = L4.30.

If you are so inclined, you can travel by San Serriffe Airways from Gatwick or via Mogadishu. You will need smallpox, cholera, typhus, and lassa fever inoculations. No customs duties are levied on tourists or commercial importers.

If you do not speak a foreign language, you need not worry since English is the working language. Caslon is used on ceremonial occasions and there is a language (Ki-flong) indigeneous to the Flongs.

Illustrated below is the front and back of a specimen of the 25 Corona notes of San Serriffe. You will find an illustrated example of the



100-corona coin of the Republic on page 429 of the March 1988 issue of our sister publication *The Numismatist*.

(1) It may be of interest to note that the Bird & Bull Press, S.S., has been incorporated under the Laws of the Republic of San Serriffe and has issued stock certificates.

(Ed. note: *San Serriffe is the product of an April 1, 1977 spoof.*)

MONEY OF THE BANK OF HELL

The Chinese issued bank notes in five million Yuan denominations showing the temple of Confusius that were to be put in their graves to fool the gods in order the the deceased would not go to Hell. Packets of notes, signed by Yaoh Wong are known.

(Submitted by R. R. Kutcher)

MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN

Harold J. Nussbaum, Rockville, MD

These were the strange words written by the moving finger on the wall of the Palace of Belshazzar, King of Babylon, as he sat feasting and drinking with his nobles and his consorts (*Daniel, Ch. 5*). The unknown writing required the explanation of the Seer Daniel who interpreted three verb forms: *MENE*, "God hath numbered thy kingdom, and brought it to an end"; *TEKEL*, "you have been weighed in the balances, and art found wanting"; *PERES*, "Thy kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians."

The important word to us is *TEKEL*. Part of the Book of Daniel is written in Aramaic and this is the equivalent to the Hebrew word *SHAKEL*, the word "weigh". Living languages are not frozen in time. They continuously develop new meanings associated with old words.

Some years ago in Tel Aviv we spotted a house bearing the sign "Shomrei Mishkal". This literally translates "Watchers of the Weight". In other words "Weight Watchers". Emphasis of the Hebrew root "*SHKL*" and the Aramaic root "*TKL*" is on "Weighing".

Ancient coins are a development of having regular weights of silver or gold on which the Ruler stamped the insignia of the State as a guarantee of value. It thus became a "coin" (as opposed to a token) and the weight "*SHEKEL*" became the shekel coin. Throughout the Middle East the same root can be found. In Persia it was the "*SIGLOS*". There was an international weight system, so that the *SHEKEL* was the standard at about a half ounce, approximately 16 gms.

Genesis (Ch. 23) tells the story of Abraham buying the burial cave from Ephron, the Hittite, for 400 silver shekels by weight (*Gen. Ch. 23, 16*). In *Exodus 21* damages of 30 shekels of silver are imposed for injury to a slave. Rashi, the Jewish commentator, 900 years ago, explained that the weight of a shekel equalled four gold pieces which weighed one half ounce by the standard weight of Cologne. While it is doubtful that the scholar, who lived in France, ever saw ancient shekels, his information was quite accurate as to the weight of the coin. Obviously the tradition of the Sages was carefully transmitted. *Exodus (Ch. 30)* prescribes the obligatory tax of one half shekel for each man and tells us that the weight of the shekel is 20 *gerahs* (carob seeds). Carob seeds are the source of our word "carat" for weighing diamonds and "karat" for the purity of gold.

It is not clear when the ancient Jews proceeded to the use of an actual coinage, but this probably occurred during the early days of the Persian succession to the Babylonian Empire. Early Greek coins are found in the Holy Land. Shekels, as we know them, do not appear until the mintage in the middle Second Century, B.C.E, of the City of Tyre in Phoenicia. The rabbis of the Talmud explain that the Shekel of Tyre was a fine regulated silver standard acceptable as

the Shekel for payment of the half shekel poll tax to the Sanctuary in Jerusalem. It is for this reason that the story of the money-changers in the Temple precincts in the New Testament is misunderstood. Since pilgrims came from any countries and wished to pay their tax, they needed to change their foreign money into the money of Tyre in order to make the proper payment. This continued until the Jewish War against the Romans (67-70 C.E.) when the Jews for the first time minted their own Shekel coins. There are five years of mintage with dates, denominations of shekels, half shekels and two rare examples of quarter shekel, all in silver. In the Second War against the Romans from 132 to 135 C.E., the Jews again struck large silver coins. The Tetradrachm, weighing approximately one half ounce, is considered to have been equal to the older shekel, although called a "Selah".

Numbers 18, teaches the commandment to redeem from dedication to service of the Lord each first-born son for five shekels of the 20 gerah standard. Some years ago the State of Israel struck special silver dollar type "Redemption Shekels" with approval of the Chief Rabbis for parents to use in redeeming their first-born.

Tyrian and Jewish shekels were both handsome coins. Over Two Millennia a shekel weight had evolved into a handsome shekel coin.

(Our thanks to Ray HEBERT for introducing us to Mr. Nussbaum, a colleague of his on the Staff of the National Numismatic Collection of the Smithsonian Institution. We are pleased to publish his article. First of many we hope: Editors)

BASEL, SWITZERLAND



In 1741 a special double Taler was struck for Basel, Switzerland. This large coin was designed by Handmann and shows a view of Basel as seen down river from the east. Above the city, as in clouds, is the word BASILEA and the coats of arms of the eight governors. The reverse has the legendary Basilisk with an oval shield.

(Submitted by R. R. Kutcher)

RECOINAGE IN 1695 REPLACED BRITAIN'S HAMMERED COINAGE

R. R. Kutcher, Lincoln, Nebraska, NI #1289

When Queen Mary died in 1694, much of the old hand hammered type coins were still in circulation. None of the hammered coins had been struck since 1661, but no provisions had been made to withdraw them from circulation. The rise in the value of silver over the prior thirty years had caused the exportation to the continent of the good full weight hammered currency. The coins that were left in circulation were the badly worn and much clipped hammered coins and a large number of counterfeit coins that were mixed up in the good coins. In 1695 the government decided on a mass recoinage and passed stiff laws for the prevention of clipping and forgery. Laws were also enacted for the issue of the new coinage to replace the old hammered money. The old coins were called in at their face value and not by weight so that the government sustained the loss and not the owner of the light weight coins. The now infamous "Window" tax was then levied on dwellings and homes to raise one million two hundred thousand pounds sterling to make good the deficiency in the light weight coins and to pay for the new coinage.



William and Mary



William III

To speed up the tremendous task of recoinage, special mints were opened

at Bristol, Chester, Exeter, Norwich and York. While the dies were prepared in London and dated 1696, 1697 and 1698, they were marked with a "B, C, E, N or Y" below the kings bust to designate the special mint where the coin was struck. Coinage was also struck without any mintmark.

VALENTIN ON THE EARLY 18th CENTURY COINAGE OF CEYLON

Besides the coins, measures, yards, and weights which can be seen in Knox (1), we think it useful to add the following:

The coins current here are the Rixdollar (2) of 60 Stuivers
 Rupees (3) of 24 or 30 Stuivers
 Persian large Abbasis (4) at 1 Rixdollar for two and half large
 and three and a half of small Abbasis
 1 large Abassi is 22 and a half Stuivers, 1 small Abassi 18
 Stuivers
 Ducats (5) at 6 Guilders 12 Stuivers each
 1 copper Casu (6) 1 Stuyivber; 60 Casus in 1 Rixdollar
 Provintie-Dollars at 1 1/10 Rixdollar each
 1 Coer (7) Chankus (8) are 20 Stuivers
 Pagodas (9) at 129 Stuivers or 6 Guilders each
 1 Fanum (10) 5 Stuivers
 1 Moor Ducat is 19 Fanum or 2 1/2 Rixdollar
 1 Xerafin (11) is 1 Guilder

- (1) pp. 97-8, Knox, Captain Robert. *An historical relation of the island Ceylon, in the East Indies*. London 1681.
- (2) The Dutch Rijksdaalder, a silver coin.
- (3) The standard Moghul silver coin.
- (4) A Persian gold coin.
- (5) A European silver coin.
- (6) *Kasu* (Tamil). A copper coin of small denomination, anaglicised into "cash".
- (7) *Kuru* (Tamil). A quantity of 120 pieces, generally used in Madura to measure *chanks*.
- (8) *Sanku* (Tamil). Conch shell.
- (9) Gold coin current in southern India, also called *varaha* or *hun*.
- (10) A gold coin of small denomination current in south India.
- (11) A Portuguese gold coin.

Taken from pp.185-186 of *Francois Valentijn's Description of Ceylon*.
 Translated and edited by Sinnappah Arasaratnam. (London: The Hakluyt Society 1978). Published in December 1722.

(Submitted by R. J. Hébert)

BRITISH INDIA HISTORICAL MEDALS - NUMBER 903.1

Robert P. Puddester, Singapore, NI #1536

RAJKUMAR COLLEGE - KARANSINHJI OF RAJKOT
IN MEMORIAN
by Allan Wyon



OBV: Turbaned bust of the 16 year old Prince. Encircled by:
BORN 1887. KARANSINHJI OF RAJKOT. DIED 1903.

REV: Wreath with space within for award inscription. Encircled by:
RAJKUMAR COLLEGE. KATHIAWAD. PRIZE FOR RECITATION.

Edge: Plain

Diameter: 45mm

Metal: AR

Rajkumar College ("Raj" is a variation of Raja and "kumar" means son; thus "son of a Raja") was the first of the Chiefs' Colleges founded in India and was opened at Rajkot in December 1870. Rajkot was about 200 miles north of Bombay on the Kathiawar peninsula roughly in the centre of the Bombay Presidency. The Chiefs' Colleges were formed as more and better education was introduced throughout India but, in those days, it was impossible for the sons and relatives of Maharajas and persons equivalent in rank to attend school with ordinary boys. The medal represented here was presented in memoriam by Karansinhji's brother-in-law, Raj Saheb Amarsinhji of Vankaner. The Prince was a great favorite at Rajkumar College and, according to a contemporary account by the Maharaja of Bhavnagar, he had made many friends and was very popular. The medal was for recitation at which young Karansinhji distinguished himself. He was only thirteen when he completely upstaged the great Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon, who was attending one of the school's speech-days in November 1900, with his recitation of "The Revenge: A Ballad of the Fleet" by Tennyson. The Kathiawar Times of November 6, 1900, reported "Though all the reciters acquitted themselves very creditably, and though most of them won applause from His Excellency and smiles of recognition from Her Excellency, the feat performed by Kumar Shri Karansinhji of Rajkot, who, perhaps because youngest, had the longest piece in the longest metre, taking about eight minutes to go through, was simply wonderful. The whole audience stared in amazement as they with some difficulty followed page after page of the printed copy of Recitations, while the tiny Kumar went on repeating, as if off-hand and without the least effort, the whole of the poem allotted to him. The assembled did not cease

applauding until the Kumar Saheb, the hero of the day, begged of His Excellency and the audience to, as it were, let him alone." Less than three years later the young Prince died at the College. As often happened in those days, what started as a mild attack of fever ended a few days later in death, on 19 March 1903. Rajkumar College still exists today but has become a public school along more traditional lines. It is one of the foremost and best educational institutions in Western India. The buildings remain well kept and impressive with a fine quadrangle and excellent sports grounds.

HUNGARIAN 1686 10 DUCAT



I. A. Viechter, the Chamberlain of the Hungarian mines, struck a large 10 Ducat silver coin in 1686. The issue was to commemorate the capture of Budapest. The obverse shows the Emperor, Leopold I, the hog mouth, in a quadriga. The reverse shows the siege of the city of Buda. This rare piece is 51mm in diameter. The city of Budapest consists of the united town of Buda and Obuda on the right bank of the Danube and the town of Pest on the left bank.

(Submitted by R. R. Kutcher)

NUMISMATIC GLEANINGS

Setting out in the summer of 1875, English traveller and writer Arthur Arnold and his wife made their way from London to Alexandria, Egypt, via Warsaw, St. Petersburg, Moscow, the Caspian Sea, Tehran, Ispahan, the Persian Gulf and Bombay. They crossed Persia north-to-south on horseback, more than a thousand miles, from October 1875 to February 1876. These are their observations on the Persian coinage situation at that time:

"The Persian money is not the least queer thing in the country. Everybody talks of 'tomans,' which are gold coins of the nominal value of ten krans. But the small remnant of this gold coinage is sold as a curiosity in the bazaars at twelve or thirteen krans for each gold toman. Virtually, there are but three coins in the currency of Persia: the silver kran, the half kran, or penabat, and the shihee. The value of the kran, which is of pure, unalloyed silver, is about equivalent to that of a franc. It is a small piece of metal, intended to be circular, upon which the Shah's stamp may have fallen fully, or may have left but half an impression.

"Krans are often ragged at the edges, as pieces of dough would be if subjected to the same process, and every important town in Persia has a mint. The gold coinage has been exported, to pay for imports of foreign manufactures; and it seems that the silver is following the same course, and that Persia is being drained of the precious metals..

"As to coining, that is carried on in all manner of ways. During our stay in Persia, the Shah had two Austrian officials, who were engaged, to the disgust of the Persians of the court, in arranging for the issue of money. They had been a year in the country, and were so successfully thwarted that nothing had been accomplished by these detested Europeans.

"A clever khan, whose acquaintance we made in the capital, had a coining-machine sent from Paris at his own expense; and with the aid of this he last year presented the Shah with some specimen coins, remarking at the same time upon the dilatoriness of the Austrians. The consequence was that he received orders to proceed with his manufacture; and now new krans and penabats are occasionally to be seen.

"But base money is becoming more and more common, I am told, in Persia. People who affect to know, and who are certainly in a position to be well informed, declare that most of the bad money comes from the imperial mints; and if, say, a master of a mint has a salary of a thousand tomans, and is able and willing, in order to retain his office, to give presents to the value of twenty thousand tomans --which I am assured is the case with at least one of these officers --the fact would, to say the least, throw much suspicion upon his issue.

There is a copper coinage, the shihee, of which twenty make a kran. But there are no shihees, there are only half-shihees; and it seems to be the abiding and unvarying conviction of Persian servants that this coinage, which is for the most part stamped with the well-known Persian combination of the lion and sun, is not sufficiently valuable

for Europeans to handle. The odd shihees in any purchase or any settlement of expenditure are never forthcoming; the real value is much greater than the nominal worth, and perhaps Persian servants do not like to see the premium lost by unthrifty masters. Possibly this is the reason why they collect and sell them wholesale for their private advantage, at about twenty-five percent increase upon the nominal value of the coins."

-- Arthur Arnold, *Through Persia by Caravan*, New York (1877), pages 134-136.

(Submitted by David G. Briggs)

NUMISMATIC GLEANINGS

"To facilitate trade and to promote the welfare of the merchants, Khubilai (Khan) initiated the use of paper currency throughout his domains. Khubilai was the first Mongol ruler to seek a countrywide system of paper currency...

"The new dynasty's regulations required foreign merchants to convert their precious metals into paper currency as soon as they set foot in China. This policy was extremely profitable for the court, and the merchants abided by the regulation because it granted them entry into the lucrative trade with China...

"Khubilai invalidated the local paper currencies that had circulated under the earlier Mongol khans and called upon the people of North China to surrender gold, silver, and copper coins to the government. He was determined to impose government controls on the currency and to replace coins with paper money.

"In his first year in power, Khubilai devised three types of paper currency, one of which remained in use throughout his reign. The first, known in Chinese as the *ssu-ch'ao*, was based upon silk, but the two others, the *Chung-t'ung yüan-pao-ch'ao* and the *Chung-t'ung yin-huo*, were backed by a silver reserve. The *Chung-t'ung yüan-pao-ch'ao* eventually prevailed and won the confidence of the population. These notes must have been readily available and widely used, for Marco Polo described them at length in his account of his stay in thirteenth-century China. The system operated well at least until 1276, partly because Khubilai kept tight controls on the amount of paper money printed. Until the conquest of the Southern Sung, the government did not appreciably increase the amount of paper money it produced annually. In 1276, the court, faced with staggering expenses for military campaigns in Southern China and Japan, dramatically expanded the amount it printed. Yet inflation did not get out of hand during Khubilai's reign."

-- Morris Rossabi, *Khubilai Khan, His Life and Times*, Berkeley (1988), pages 122-124.

(Submitted by David G. Briggs)

CONTENTS OF THE NI REFERENCE COLLECTION

Key to Listing: FINE or better for all Yeoman types. VERY GOOD or better for all Craig types. Underlined = Uncirculated. C = Complete. C = Complete with at least one uncirculated type. CX (----) = Complete except those listed. X = Except. Mints are not listed unless multiple for the particular year.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: Y2 - 1976.

CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES: Equatorial African States - Y1, 1961, 1962, 1965; Y2 - 1961, 1965, 1969; Y3 - 1961; Y4 - 1961; Y5 - 1965, 1967.
Central African States - Y10 - C.

CHAD: Y1 - 1971, 1972; Y2 - 1975.

CHILE: Y47 - 1872; Y49 - 1884; Y59 - 1886, 1895; Y67 - C; Y78 - 1908; Y79 - 1908; Y83 - 1915; Y84 - 1915; Y88 - 1921, 1922, 1925, 1928, 1934, 1938; Y89 - 1922, 1923, 1933, 1937, 1938, 1940; Y90 - 1924, 1933, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941; Y91 - 1933; Y102 - CX (1947, 1948); Y103 - C; Y104 - 1943, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1953, 1954; Y105 - CX (1958); Y106 - C; Y107 - CX (1959); Y108 - 1962; Y109 - CX (1960); Y110 - CX (1965); Y111 - 1964, 1966, 1969; Y112 - CX (1960, 1961, 1962, 1968); Y113 - C; Y114 - C; Y115 - C; Y116 - 1971, 1972; Y118 - 1971, 1972; Y121 - 1974; Y126 - 1977.

CHINA - General Coinage: Empire - C1-1.1; C1-2.1; C1-3.1; C1-15.1; C2-2.1; Y5.1 - C; Y7 - C; Y8 - 1906; Y9j.1 - C; Y10.4 - C; Y10a.2 - C; Y10a.3 - C; Y10c - C; Y10d.2 - C; Y10f - C; Y10h.5 - C; Y10j.1 - C; Y10j.4 - C; Y10j.5 - C; Y10j.6 - C; Y10k.3 - C; Y10k.7 - C; Y10k.10 - C; Y10r - 1908; Y10s.1 - C; Y10t - C; Y11.3 - C; Y11t - C; Y12 - C; Y19a.2 - 1322; Y20.1 - C; Y20j.1 - C; Y20j.2 - C; Y21.1a - C. Republic - Y301.1 - C; Y301.2 - C; Y301.5 - C; Y302.1 - C; Y302.2 - C; Y303.1 - C; Y306.2a - C; Y319 - C; Y347 - 1936; Y348.1 - 1936; Y349.1 - 1936; Y350.1 - 1936; Y355 - C; Y356 - C; Y358 - C; Y360.1 - CX (1942); Y361.1 - C; Y362.1 - 1942.

CHINA - Provincial Coinage:

Anhui: Y36.3 - C; Y36a.4 - C.

Chekiang: Y49.2 - C.

Chihli: Y67.2 - C; Y68.1 - C.

Chinkiang: Y78 - C.

Fengtien: Y2131.5 - C.

Fukien: Y97.1 - C.

Honan: Y108a.4 - C; YA392.1 - C; Y392.3 - C; Y393.2 - C; Y394.1 - C.

Hunan: Y112.1 - C; Y112.2 - C; Y113.3 - C; Y400.2 - C; Y400.4 - C; Y400.5 - C; Y400.6 - C; Y400.7 - C.

Hupei: Y120 - C; Y120a.1 - C; Y120a.2 - C; Y120a.4 - C; Y120a.6 - C; Y122.2 - C; Y125.2 - C.

Kiangnan: Y135.1 - C; Y135.2 - C; Y135.6 - C; Y135.7 - C; Y135.8 - C; Y143a.7 - C; Y143a.8 - C; Y145a.3 - C; Y145a.12 - C.

Kiangsi: C15.1.1 - C.

Kiangsu: Y162.1 - C; Y162.4a - C; Y162.8 - C.

Kirin: Y177.4 - C; Y181a - C; Y190.1 - C.

Kwangtung: Y189 - C; Y190 - C; Y191 - C; Y192 - C; Y193 - C; Y200 - C; Y201 - C; Y205 - C; Y417.2 - 1914, 1916; Y420 - C; Y423 - C to 1922 X (1951); Y425 - C; Y426 - C.

Shanktung: Y221a.1 - C.

Sinkiang: Y6.1 - C; Y19a.2 - 1322.

Szechwan: Y449.2 - C; Y459.1a - C; Y464.1 - C.

BOOK NEWS

(Members are invited to send us reviews of the books listed in this section.)

Durst reprinting medieval bracteate reference

With the popularity of collecting Ancient and Medieval coinage gaining strength, the demand for references, especially in the English language has increased as well.

To meet this demand, New York based numismatic book publisher Sanford J. Durst has announced a series of reprints and new editions of titles, the latest being an *Introduction to Medieval Bracteates* by Dr. John Lhotka. This has been the third new title announced since January 1989.

This series of wafer-thin coinages issued in Mid-Europe in medieval times is highly collectible and of interest historically and numismatically.

Introduction to Medieval Bracteates was originally published as a series of monographs in 1958 in *The Numismatist* of the American Numismatic Association. It is well illustrated, and catalogs and categorizes coins by location and style legends. A new series of photo plates with well over 100 new photographs and descriptions are added, and a bibliography is included. However, all other references are scarce and in other languages, primarily in German.

Introduction to Medieval Bracteates is priced at \$12.00. Orders can be directed to Sanford J. Durst, 29-28 41st Avenue, Long Island City, N.Y. 11101, U.S.A.

THE UNUSUAL THREE DUCAT



A Three Ducat coin was issued to commemorate the 1958 World's Fair. On the obverse of this coin is the statue, in Brussels, Belgium, of a little boy that is relieving himself. The reverse is of a global map of the world.

(Submitted by R. R. Kutcher)

MEMBER NOTICE PAGE

Fred Drost, 110 Ridgefield St., Meriden, CT 06450: Help needed on the mint marks on the so-called "Hand Hellers" of HALL in 13th century SWABIA. I have had one for years and I am anxious to attribute if possible. The "D" mint mark, found in the palm of the hand, is from Dillingen by the Bishops of Augsburg, according to Philip Grierson, he mentioned in passing in a chapter of a recent book. I am interested in known HOW MANY mint marks are known (and attributed) on these medieval coins.

Gustav Lompa, Leuchterstr. 221, 5 Koln 80, West Germany: Medal on railway engineer Henry Meiggs (rev. Viaducto de Varbugas - Peru) by J. S. and A. B. Wyon, dies by Tiffany & Co. - trade for railway medal of Germany.

Jack E. Lewis, 7607 Azalea Lane, Dallas, TX 75230: WANTED to purchase a copy of *Munzen aus Porzellan Steinzeug und Ton*, by Otto Franke. Please write giving condition and price.

Roger P. Zago, P. O. Box 81, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901: Information needed by researcher. Laos 1971 silver coins have very large mintages in the Krause catalog and yet are almost never available. Were these melted? Does anyone know the story of what happened to these coins. Thank you.

Fred Drost, 110 Ridgefield St., Meriden, CT 06450: A wide variety of European tokens from several countries have a "Solid Triangle" on them. Is it a mintmark of some private manufacturer? They are commonly found on French tokens of the WW I period and perhaps also on Spanish Civil War (1930s) issues. Anyone know the source and meaning of the "solid triangle" mintmark? Replies will be promptly acknowledged. Thanks.

ATTRIBUTION SERVICE: The NI Attribution Committee will accept from NI members only, any numismatic items, whether paper, metal, or whatever, for attribution. We must limit the items to a TOTAL OF SIX (6) MAXIMUM. The cost is just advance payment of return postage, including sufficient for insurance or registration, if desired. Send to: NI Attribution Committee, P. O. Box 2057, Saugatuck Sta., Westport, Conn. 06880, USA.

TO THE NI MEMBERSHIP: The use of the MEMBER NOTICE PAGE is free to all NI members. About the only rules are that we will not accept FOR SALE items and in months in which the page is oversubscribed (which is seldom) research type notices will be given priority over the WANTED, etc., type notices. All replies must be acknowledged.

FROM THE MAILBOX

There should be a lot more activity on Member Notice Page! Present condition is rather poor for NI - a worldwide organization!

Gustav Lompa
Koln, West Germany